



Staff Agency for the Judicial Conference of Indiana

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## **TYPES OF PROGRAMS**

There are three types of court alcohol and drug programs: free-standing, probation-based, and contract programs. Each type of program is authorized by statute to provide assessment, referral, education, and case management services to court-referred clients, and each may charge a user fee for those services. Programs may contract with outside personnel or agencies to provide some of the services. Each program and any outside contractors are required to follow all applicable Rules for Court-Administered Alcohol and Drug Programs.

### **FREE-STANDING PROGRAM**

A court starting a free-standing court program hires its own program director, who may hire other staff. Counties with overworked probation departments may select the free-standing model to avoid increasing probation officer duties. Also, because a free-standing program is not tied to a probation department or a treatment provider, a free-standing program may be able to provide the most objective assessments and referrals. Often, free-standing programs are solely funded by user fees.

### **PROBATION-BASED PROGRAM**

A probation-based court program is a division of the probation department. The court program staff report to the program director or the chief probation officer, who then reports to and communicates with the supervising judge of the court program. Because the court program staff serve a dual function by providing both probation and court program services, clients may benefit by having fewer appointments to attend to comply with court orders. In addition, because the county is already funding probation services, a probation-based program may have reduced start-up costs.

### **CONTRACT PROGRAM**

Contract court programs are created when a court contracts with an existing treatment provider to provide court alcohol and drug services. The court collects the user fee from each client and pays all or part of the fee to the contractor, who generally assesses the client, provides education, refers the client to treatment when necessary, and manages the client's case until discharge. Because the contracting agency is responsible for personnel, overhead, supply, and administrative costs, this arrangement may permit a court to begin a program with fewer start-up costs, and without increasing probation officer workloads. Moreover, because the contracting agency may already be familiar with substance abuse screening and treatment protocols, a contract-based program may be in a position to begin delivering services to clients more quickly.